NATIONAL REGISTER LISTED

DEC 3 0 2009

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

historic name Cossaart Barn other names/site number 157-177 2. Location street & number 3040 Birch Road not for publication city or town Narka vicinity state Kansas code KS county Republic code 157 zip code 66960 3. State/Federal Agency Certification As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, Thereby certify that this nonination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Preservation Act, as amended, Thereby certify that this nonination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Preservation nonination request for determination of eligibility meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be constituted (spinicapar) part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register of edifficing official/Title Date Signature of certifying official/Title Date			
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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this \(\) nomination \(\) request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 80. In my opinion, the property \(\) meets \(\) does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered eligibility official/Title \(\) state Historic Preservation Office, Kansas Historical Society \(\) State OFficial Preservation Office, Kansas Historical Society \(\) State or Federal agency and bureau \(\) In my opinion, the property \(\) meets \(\) does not meet the National Register criteria. \(\) See Continuation sheet for additional comments. \(\) Signature of certifying official/Title \(\) Date State or Federal agency and bureau 4. National Park Service Certification I hereby certify that the property is: one continuation sheet determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet determined not eligible for the National Register: removed from the National Register removed from the National Register removed from the National Register removed from the National Register. other,	city or town Narka	U vi	cinity
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	□ entered in the National Register. □ See continuation sheet □ determined eligible for the National Register. □ See continuation sheet □ determined not eligible for the National Register □ removed from the National	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action

Name of Property	County and State
5. Classification	
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in count)
	Contributing Noncontributing 1 buildings sites 1 structures
	objects 2 Total
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)	Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of KS	0
6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Agriculture / Subsistence: animal facility;	Agriculture / Subsistence: animal facility;
agricultural outbuilding	agricultural outbuilding
Extraction: windmill	Extraction: windmill
7. Description	
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundation Concrete
Other: Midwest Prairie	walls Wood
	roof Metal: Steel
	other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Cossaart Barn	Republic County, Kansas
Name of Property	County and State
8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Agriculture Architecture
☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics	
of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance
D. Drawards has visited and likebyte visit	Circa 1916-1959
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	
Criteria Considerations N/A (Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.) Property is:	Significant Dates Circa 1916, 1937
A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Dozoon
B removed from its original location.	Significant Person (complete if Criterion B is marked) N/A
☐ C a birthplace or grave	
D a cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation N/A
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
☐ F a commemorative property	Architect/Builder
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Cossaart, Reuben C. (builder)
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sho	eets.)
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form of	on one or more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A	Primary location of additional data:
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested	
☐ previously listed in the National Register ☐ Previously determined eligible by the National Register	☐ Federal Agency ☐ Local Government ☐ University
designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	Other Name of repository:
# recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Cultural Resources Division, Kansas Historical Society
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Cossaart Barn		Republic County, Kansas
Name of Property	C	county and State
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10. Geographical Data		
Acreage of Property Less than 1		
UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)		
1 14 638345 4427620	3	
Zone Easting Northing		Zone Easting · Northing
2	4	
		See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)		
11. Form Prepared By		
name/title Jim Cossaart (with assistance from Sarah Martin, KSHS)		· MANTENANIA
organization	da	ate July 2009
		
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city or town Narka st	teleph ate <u>KS</u>	zip code 66960
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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

			Cossaan Bam	
			Narka vicinity, Republic County, KS	
Section number	 Page	1_	Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of KS	
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PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The Cossaart Barn, built in about 1916, is located at 3040 Birch Road or 1.2 miles west of Mahaska, Kansas, on a uniquely designated parcel of land – Section 1-1-1 in Albion Township of Republic County, Kansas. Albion Township is located in the extreme northeast corner of the county and includes only a few hundred residents. The Cossart farm is situated on the north side of the gravel road within a shallow valley. The rural surroundings feature rolling hills of grassland used for ranching and farming.

The Cossart farmstead includes other buildings and structures of various periods, but the barn is the oldest and best intact feature on the farmstead. In addition to the barn, the current farmstead includes a 1929 residence, a former granary, a former corncrib, a 1937 Fairbury windmill, and a shed. There is a hedge post barbed-wire fence running down the center of the property that is over 100 years old.

The barn measures fifty feet by forty-eight feet and is approximately thirty feet from ground level to the peak of the roof. High-grade hard southern pine frames the structure with predominately two-inch by six-inch members forming both walls and rafters. It has a single-pitch gable roof covered with a base of cedar shingles topped by corrugated steel. The siding is vertical tongue-and-groove pine. Concrete foundation footings support the barn walls.

The floor plan is divided into three sections. The large central section, reaches from dirt floor to roof peak. This area was used for piling loose hay and, in the 1960s and 1970s, small round bales. A large hay door is near the north peak and was hinged to accommodate the loading of the loose hay. The rope and pulleys can still be seen near the peak. The two flanking sections on the east and west sides feature concrete floors and were used to house livestock. Both sections have large exterior sliding doors on each end. The west section is open; the east section contains stanchions and mangers that housed draft mules and a milk cow or two.

The barn has apparently changed little since it was constructed. It has always been painted white. The cedar shingle roof was overlaid with corrugated steel in 1972. Other than the roof, only small repairs have been made to the doors. Two damaging windstorms occurred in 1998 and 1999 after which both the north and south walls were pulled back into plumb and reinforced with braces on the interior frame.

¹ This section touches the original survey marker, established in 1856, and was used as a base reference point for surveying lands in Kansas and five other states. The survey marker was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

		Cossaart Barn
		Narka vicinity, Republic County, KS
Section number	 2	Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of KS

Current Condition of the Barn

The barn is still used to house hay bales and to shelter livestock in inclement weather, as well as to occasionally sort cattle in conjunction with a working lot immediately north of the barn. There are a number of wood siding pieces that have deteriorated – particularly near the foundation – but the majority of the siding is in good shape and needs a quality paint job to protect it. There are two walk-in doors that need to be replaced and three large sliding doors that need refurbished.

The most pressing concern with the structure is its east foundation. In about 1985 there was an attempt to correct the collapse of the concrete footing by installing large crossote posts as supports, but this has not been effective. The eastern portion of the barn's foundation needs to be properly stabilized to prevent future problems.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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					Narka vicinity, Republic County, KS
Section number	8	Page	3		Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of KS

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cossaart Barn is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as part of the *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas* multiple property nomination under Criterion A for its association with local agricultural history and Criterion C for its architectural significance as a Midwest Prairie-style barn.

Midwest Prairie Barn Architecture²

The Midwest Prairie Barn is the archetypal Kansas barn. From the beginning, Kansas farms were much larger than the national average, requiring large teams of draft horses and, in turn, tons of hay. Ranchers, who were managing ever-growing herds of longhorns and beef cattle in the Flint Hills and Southwest region beginning in the 1880s, required great amounts of hay to feed their herds during the long winter months. And Midwest Prairie Barns answered their call. Unlike their Gable-Roof predecessors, Midwest Prairie Barns were ordinarily balloon-framed, constructed entirely of sawn lumber. Also called "Feeder Barns," Midwest Prairie Barns had striking similarities to ethnic Dutch barns, which also had low rooflines and doors in the gable end. In 1919, Sears catalog offered two feeder barns, one with a gable roof and another with a gambrel roof. They marketed the barns for their "abundance of loft roof for the storage of hay, roughage, etc." Midwest Prairie Barns are most common in the state's Northwest Region, the state's western wheat belt.

Midwest Prairie Barns are identified by their wide sweeping roofs, horizontal massing, and gable-end entrances. This Property Type includes barns categorized by the National Park Service as "Prairie Barns" and by other sources as "Western Barns," "Midwest Three Portal," "Transverse Frame," and "Feeder Barns." Unlike Gable-Roof, Gambrel-Roof, and Arch-Roof Barns, with their vertical emphasis, Midwest Prairie Barns are generally as wide, or wider than they are tall and wider than they are long. However, like the aforementioned Property Types, the Midwest Prairie design emphasizes hay storage, with prominent hay hoods and doors, as well as large haymows. Midwest Prairie Barns can be found with both shallow gable roofs and gambrel roofs. Most gable examples feature a continuous roofline that slopes down nearly to grade. However, some have broken roof planes. The feature that distinguishes these examples

³ As quoted in Spencer and Davis: Allen G. Noble and Hubert GH Wilhelm, ed., *Barns of the Midwest* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1995), Chapter 7.

² The following three paragraphs about Midwest Prairie Barn architecture are taken from: Brenda Spencer and Christy Davis, Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form. (Topeka, KS: Cultural Resources Division, Kansas Historical Society, 2008), F-57 through F-59. Available at: www.kshs.org/resource/national register/MPS/HistoricAgricultureRelatedResourcesofKSDRAFT mps.pdf

⁴ As quoted in Spencer and Davis: Michael J. Auer, Preservation Brief #20: The Preservation of Historic Barns (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1989.)

⁵ As quoted in Spencer and Davis: Rebecca Hunter and Dale Patrick Wolicki, Sears, Roebuck Book of Barns: A Reprint of the 1919 Catalog (Perfect Paperback: 2005), 25.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cossaart Barn
Narka vicinity, Republic County, KS Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of KS

from Gable-Roof Barns is the typical continuation of the haymow over the side bays. Some Midwest Prairie Barns have gambrel roofs with side shed bays on both sides that create a sweeping roof form.

The interior plans of Midwest Prairie Barns are generally similar to Gambrel-Roof and Arch-Roof Barns, with center aisles flanked by stall bays with full haymows on the second floors. Some examples were built for stacking hay from the ground level to roof with no haymow.

The Cossaart Barn features the distinguishing characteristic of a Midwest Prairie Barn: a large sweeping gable roof that gives it a strong horizontal emphasis. It also includes a hay hood with an outward-swinging door on the north elevation. Its interior is made up of a large, open central section that is flanked by stall bays. The interior is somewhat unusual in that the central section used for hay storage extends from ground level to the roof with no haymow.

Republic County / Albion Township Historic Context

The Cossart farm is located in the extreme northeast corner of Albion Township in Republic County. The county was organized in 1868 and the township in 1870. Local history records Reuben Phillips as having the township's first settlement on the SW quarter of Section 26 in October 1869.⁶ The township's first post office was located at Prairie Grove and operated from February 26, 1872 through October 17, 1883.⁷

Census records indicate that the township population has been in decline since the initial influx of settlers in late nineteenth century.⁸

1887 - 734 1915 - 583 1920 - 546 1930 - 527 1940 - 420 1950 - 345 1960 - 254

The initial rise in population can be partially attributed to the development of railroad lines through the county. According to Frank Blackmar's 1912 history of Republic County,

In 1873 bonds were voted for the extension of the Central Branch railroad into the county. They were never issued as the railroad company failed to keep its part of the agreement. Another attempt was made in 1878 to get a road, this time with the Kansas Pacific. The proposal to issue bonds for \$4,000 per mile was lost at the election. On Dec. 24 of that year the Missouri Pacific ran its first train to Scandia over a line extended from Concordia. In 1880 a branch of the Burlington was extended through the eastern portion of the county. Four years later the Union Pacific was extended from Junction City to Belleville, and a branch of the Burlington & Missouri

⁸ Blackburn and Cardwell, 34.

⁶ Anona Shaw Blackburn and Myrtle Strom Cardwell, *History of Republic County, 1868-1964*. Belleville, KS: Belleville Telescope, 1964), 39.

⁷ Rita Kvasnicka Orton, Albion Township: The Early Years, 1870-1900. N.P. N.D., 1.

NPS FORM 10-900-A 0MB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

			Cossaart Barn
			Narka vicinity, Republic County, KS
Section number	<u>8</u> Page	5	Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of KS

River was extended through the county 18 miles. In 1887 the Rock Island built 54 miles of track, and the next year the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe built 13 miles. 9

The Chicago Rock Island Pacific line passed through Narka, the main settlement in Albion Township, which was incorporated in April of 1894. Today, it has a population of 78. 11

The township has always had an agricultural economic base with primarily small farms at 160 acres or fewer. The 1875 Agricultural Census of Kansas documented several small farms in Albion Township, but "only two men [D. Park and G. Shoup] owned more than 160 acres of land – both owned 320." Additionally, township maps from 1884, 1904, and 1923 document only a few farms in excess of 320 acres.

Property History

The Cossaart family first appears in county records as landowners noted on the 1884 Albion Township map, which lists R. G. (Reuben Griggs) Cossaart as the owner of this section of land. The map documents a residence and barn, both of which were later replaced. Since the Cossaarts have owned the land, there have been three residences on the property – the earliest was a sod house, then a small two-story wood frame house, and then the current house built in 1929.

The property deed records this quarter section of land passing from Reuben Cossaart's widow Sarah Cossaart to her young grandson Reuben C. Cossart in 1901. The younger Reuben made his mark on the farmstead with the construction of a new barn in about 1916 and the construction of a new residence on the property in 1929. Family oral history recalls Reuben hiring a team of men to build the barn.

According to current owner and the fifth-generation Cossaart to live on this property, Jim Cossaart, his grandfather Reuben always had a cow-calf herd, and his Reuben's son Alvin fattened cattle in the small lot north and east of the barn for many years, from approximately 1950-1970. The cow-calf herd totaled about 80 head of cows between the two of them. "We have always had lots of pasture grass, so there have always been cows. In Grandpa's [Reuben's] day, he always had mules as draft animals. He liked their temperament and power, and was very proud of them. He reluctantly gave them up in place of tractor power in the 1950s. Grandpa also had 50-100 head of hogs around, but Alvin hated them and they disappeared by the 1950s."

⁹ Frank Blackmar, Kansas: A Cyclopedia of State History, volume II. (Chicago: Standard Publishing Co.: 1912. Accessed online at: http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/archives/1912/r/republic_county.html
¹⁰ Orton. 4.

¹¹ League of Kansas Municipalities. *Directory of Kansas Public Officials, 2008-2009*. Available online at: www.lkm.org/publications/dokpopop.html ¹² Ibid., 9.

¹³ No Cossaarts were noted in the 1880 Federal Census of Republic County.

¹⁴ Jim Cossart, Email Correspondence with Sarah Martin, 17 September 2009.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

					Cossaart Barn	
					Narka vicinity, Republic County, KS	
Section number	8	Page	6	٠	Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of KS	

Alvin Cossart died in 1976, and his elderly parents sold off his cattle and moved off the farm shortly thereafter. Jim returned to the farm in the late 1970s, and by 1990 he had built up his herd to about 50 head.

The barn has always been integral to the working operations of this small farmstead. Historically, the large central section of the barn used for piling and storing loose hay and, in the 1960s and 1970s, small round hay bales. The flanking sections of the barn were used to shelter cattle and mules and for milking. Fenced areas north and east of the barn served as livestock holding areas. Today, the barn serves very similar purposes for Reuben's grandson and rancher Jim Cossaart. As part of his small ranching operation, he uses the barn for hay storage and to shelter calves. The 1937 windmill originally pumped water to the house and to a tank adjacent to the barn for many years. By the mid-twentieth century the windmill was outfitted with an electric motor and pumpjack. Jim Cossaart restored it back to original working condition in 1993.

The property's building stock has evolved and changed over time and, as with any historic farmstead, the residence has been replaced twice and outbuildings have come and gone. A tornado came through the area in about 1920 and destroyed the original windmill and a chicken house. In addition to the barn, the current farmstead includes a former granary, a former cornerib, a 1937 Fairbury windmill, and a shed. There is a hedge post barbed-wire fence running down the center of the property that is over 100 years old and was erected by Reuben C. Cossaart when he was a teenager. The current owners are converting much of the existing cropland (100 acres) back to native grass. The rest of the short/tallgrass prairie on the property has never been broken.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

			Cossaart Barn	
Section number	9_ Page	7	Narka vicinity, Republic County, KS Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of KS	

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Spencer, Brenda, and Christy Davis. *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas* National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form. Topeka, KS: Cultural Resources Division, Kansas Historical Society, 2008. Available at:

www.kshs.org/resource/national_register/MPS/HistoricAgricultureRelatedResourcesofKSDRAFT_mps.pdf

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page

Cossaart Barn Narka vicinity, Republic County, KS Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of KS

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Section 1, Township 1, Range 1:

E1/2 SW ¼ & SE ¼ Less TR BEG NE COR SE ¼ TH S 2645; & W 836' & N 988' & W 812' & N 1696' & E 1639' & E 20' TO POB LESS ROW

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the barn, the windmill, and the land upon which they sit.

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cossaart Barn

Narka vicinity, Republic County, KS

Section number

Photos Page

9

Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of KS

PHOTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Property:

Cossaart Barn

Location:

3040 Birch Road, Narka, KS 66960

Date:

July 22, 2009

Photographer: Sarah Martin

Digital Negatives on File with the Cultural Resources Division, Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, KS

Photo 1:

South and west (side) elevations, facing NE

Photo 2:

North and west (side) elevations, facing SE

Photo 3:

Haymow on north elevation, facing SE

Photo 4:

West (side) elevation, facing S

Photo 5:

Interior, central section, facing NE

Photo 6:

Interior, central section in foreground, facing E

Photo 7:

Interior, west section, facing S

Photo 8:

Interior, upper section of south wall, facing S

Photo 9:

Windmill, facing N

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number

Add'I Documentation Page

10

Cossaart Barn Narka vicinity, Republic County, KS Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of KS





